

EUROPARC Federation

**Memorandum of Understanding
with the United States National Parks Service North East Region**

EUROPARC Members' Questionnaire

Name: Dr. Johann Schreiner_
Position: Director and
Professor _____
Organisation: Alfred Toepfer Academy for Nature
Conservation _____
Address: _____
Hof Möhr
D29640Schneverdingen _____
Tel: ++49(0)519998910 _____
Fax: ++49(0)519998946 _____
E-mail: _nna@nna.niedersachsen.de _____

☒ Yes, we are interested in an exchange programme with a protected area in the United States (North East Region).

☐ No, we are not interested in an exchange programme with a protected area in the United States (North East Region).

Please state reason:

1. If yes, on which topics would you be interested in pursuing cooperation?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> organisational development | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ecotourism |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sustainability | <input type="checkbox"/> marketing |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transboundary management | <input type="checkbox"/> education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> financing | <input type="checkbox"/> other (please state) _____ |

2. If yes, what type of exchange would you be interested in ?

- ☒ at staff level (professional development)
- ☐ at political level (Presidents, Board Members)
- ☒ other stakeholders (e.g. farmers, tourism businesses)

continued

3. If yes, please give a short description of the features of your park and main areas of current work:

The Lüneburg heath

1. The Lüneburger Heide nature reserve

The Lüneburger heath is the second largest nature reserve in Germany, it covers an area of 23440 ha, that is roughly 90 sq. miles. It is situated in north-western Germany, about 40 km south of Hamburg and 90 km west of Hannover.

The reserve shows what a large part of north-western Germany in pre-industrial western Europe was like. It is a cultural landscape that was, and still is, continually influenced by humans. Heaths have been proven to exist in Europe since the late stone age. They were formed by the clear cutting and grazing in the mixed oak forests that dominated the landscape then. Heaths were soon a dominant feature in north-western Germany and had reached their maximum extent in the middle of the 19th century. The nature reserve was formed to protect not only the heath but also the cultural context so that old buildings and farmstead forests are also being restored and upheld. It is this cultural aspect that lead the founders of create a “Naturschutzpark” and not a national park.

Several institutions collaborate in managing the nature reserve.

2. The “Verein Naturschutzpark” (VNP)

The first concerted initiatives to protect the remaining heathlands in Germany came through a small group of locals and the “Verein Naturschutzpark” that was formed in 1909. In 1921 the authorities declared the park a nature reserve. Today Verein Naturschutzpark owns properties of about 80 km² , mainly heathlands, but also forests, moorlands and arable fields; in addition more than 100 historic buildings. Today Verein Naturschutzpark conducts most of the management work on the heathlands with own staff.

3. The Alfred Toepfer Academy for Nature Conservation

The Alfred Toepfer Academy for Nature Conservation (NNA) is a state institution under the administration of Lower Saxony's Ministry of the Environment. It is situated within the area. The three main concerns of the academy are research, education and training, and public relations work in the wide field of nature conservation.

The research at the academy is mostly done in collaboration with universities and other academic institutions of the state lower Saxony. The emphasis is on the Lüneburg heath, though some projects are also centred further afield. Some of the main fields of research are forest ecology, heathland management and the ecological restoration of Streams.

4. The Sellhorn forestry office

The Sellhorn forestry office is a state owned forestry office. Of the 13000 ha of forest in the reserve 5255 are presently part of the Sellhorn forestry office, most of them are managed forests. The forests of Sellhorn are completely within the nature reserve Lüneburger Heide, so that their management measures give special attention to nature conservation. The integration of conservation, hunting, recreation and wood use is its main goal.

Signed: i.V. Dr. Johannes Prüter Date: April 1st, 2003

Please return by 20 March 2003 to:
Sorry for the delay!

Patrizia Rossi
Parco Naturale Alpi Marittime
Corso Bianco 5
12010 Valdieri
ITALY

Email: parcalma.rossi@tin.it